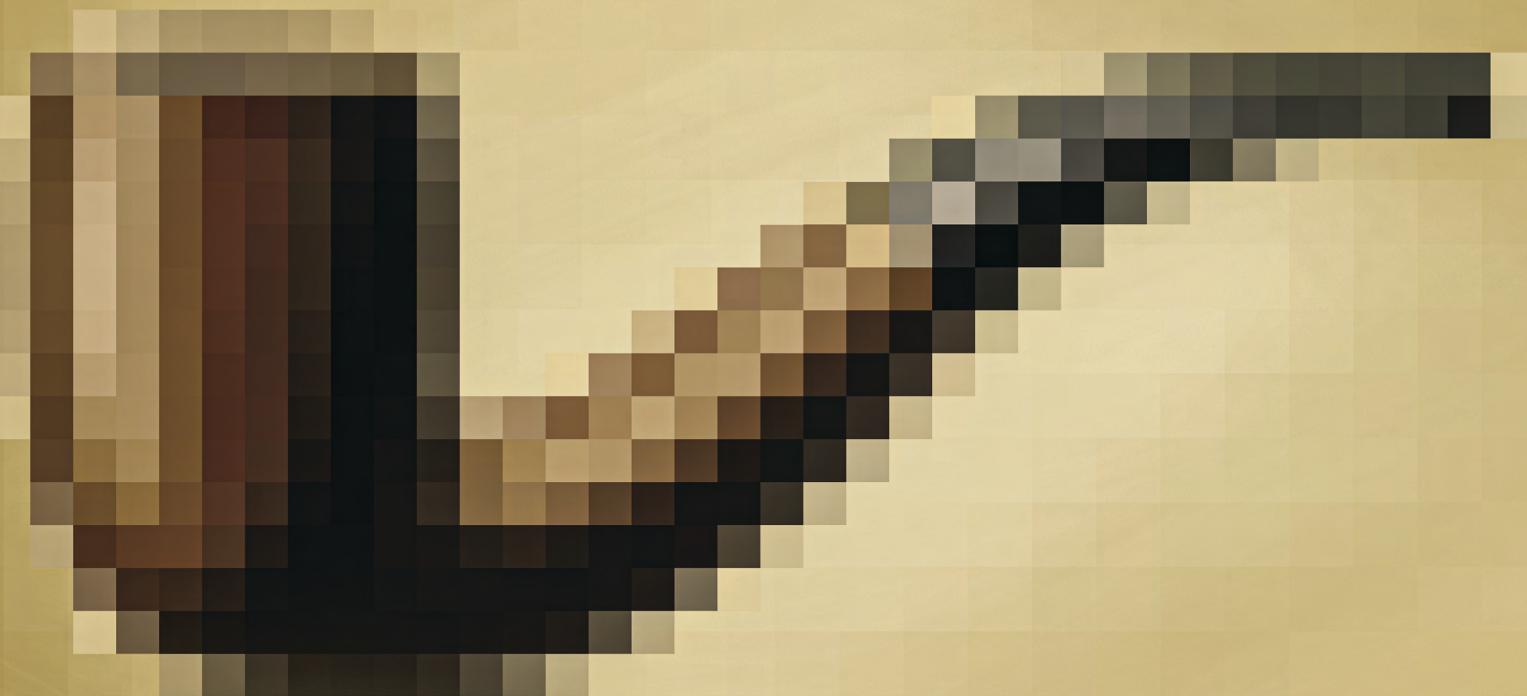


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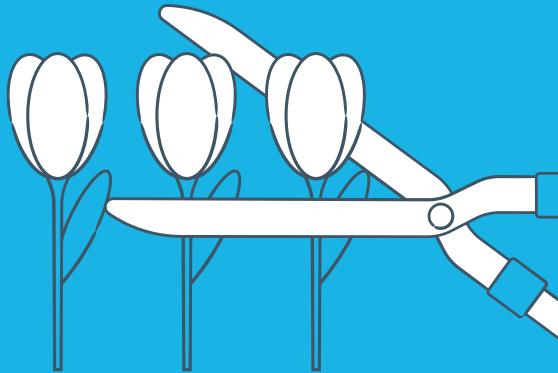
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letters

LET'S CONSUME LESS ENERGY OF ANY KIND

Thank you for the articles on electric transportation in your March 25 issue. The smaller of these ways of getting around are important, because they take less energy and materials to manufacture and operate. And as a cartoon in the same issue points out, walking might also be an option.

The U.S. needs to consume less, so that the world's poorest people can have a little more. If we in the Pacific Northwest use less electricity, more can go elsewhere via the western U.S. power grid.

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, which Rep. Ted Deutch has promised to reintroduce in the current session of Congress, would put a price on carbon, thus giving people the incentive to use less energy, even if they don't believe in human-caused global warming.

Milton Takei
Eugene

A MORE PESSIMISTIC VIEW

A letter in the April 1 issue had the plea "Do Something About Gun Violence" as its title. "Call your legislators. Join a group." Somehow the writer is "filled with hope."

We're now at an astonishing level of mass shootings. Will we ever be at the level of truly asking why?

Community is gone. Social ties are in tatters. It's about the nature of mass society in the possibly terminal stage of late civilizations. Now we can see more clearly why all civilizations die. They, most simply, consume their hosts.

Meanwhile, pathologies abound. Ever greater affronts to social existence, to the soul, mount, just as the affronts to a collapsing biosphere mount as never before. Pandemics arrive, one after the other, etc.

Surface gestures do nothing but guarantee even greater levels of disaster.

John Zerzan
Eugene

GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT ON CITY HALL

Please inform your letter writers that the old City Hall lot is now owned by Lane County and it being vacant is about county funding. To the writer

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complaining that Edison Elementary being torn down and not used for homeless, 4J is building a new school. Yes we have schools in the south hills, and it's not, as you imply, about keeping homeless out of the area. Publishing comments by writers that are incorrect is of no value.

Don French
Eugene

BUILDING A LUXURY HOTEL WHILE PEOPLE SLEEP IN THE STREETS

While upward of 3,000 people are homeless and many thousands are housing insecure in Lane County, the city of Springfield and Lane County commissioners are salivating over big developers' proposals to build 350 condominiums, a 375-room luxury hotel and perhaps a brand new baseball stadium along the Willamette River in Glenwood. This is not to mention the climate footprint of the concrete for buildings and parking structures.

Glenwood is likely Lane County's largest frontline community, but Eugene, Springfield and Lane County in practice just want to ignore this fact and drive the poorest of Lane County out of sight for the benefit of wealthy transplants to Oregon.

Several years ago Springfield enacted an ordinance to prevent entities like St. Vincent De Paul from buying any of the many trailer parks in Glenwood to renovate and manage in hopes these parks will deteriorate and be forced to sell. These trailer parks house upward of 1,000 people.

Is catering and providing millions in subsidies to good old boy developers to accommodate wealthy consumers and sports tourists while ignoring those most in need of housing the best Eugene, Springfield and Lane County can do? Have local and state governments given up attempting to alleviate the suffering of the poorest who can't adapt to a collapsing economic system?

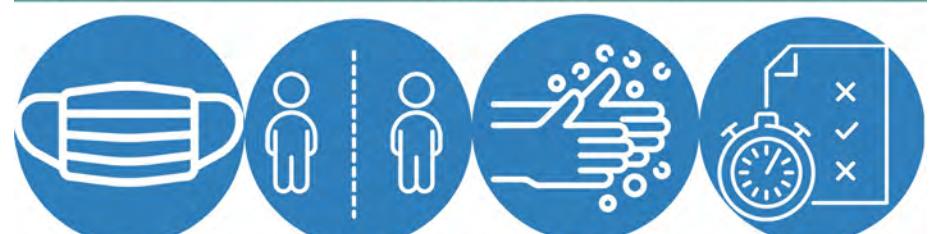
I also ask local organizations who advocate for the poor, the homeless, real climate mitigation and local community resilience, will you step up to advocate for Lane County's largest frontline community?

Shannon Wilson
Eugene



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GETTING RID OF NEEDLES

How can we alleviate the danger of finding medical sharps in our parks and support our at-risk community members? My classmates and I recently interviewed Dane Zahner of the HIV Alliance to ask these important questions for our Community Change and Leadership class at the University of Oregon.

We wanted to understand how we can support the expansion of needle drop sites and prevent medical waste ending up in our parks and in the Willamette River. We thought that by installing additional drop sites in the parks with unhoused communities, we could mitigate the need for neighborhood clean ups. However, with the ongoing sweeps, the camps are perpetually moving, making a permanent drop box untenable.

Zahner shared that in Vancouver, B.C., they've created a successful model of having wall mounted sharps containers in all business and restaurant bathrooms. Unlike outdoor drop boxes that cost \$1,500, wall mount boxes are \$15 to install. The affordability and ease of a safe collection site increases overall participation.

Harm reduction policies have a long history of supporting at-risk communities in effective ways by reducing exposure to Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and creating safe places for community members with addiction to seek assistance and recover without stigma. Harm reduction humanizes our at risk community members and is a benefit to our larger city by offering accessible drop sites.

Let's solve the medical waste stream problem with evidence based models. In doing so, we will continue to show how effective Eugene can be.

*Carly Boyer, Avery Johnson and
Stella Augustine
Eugene*

**CYCLISTS DON'T
NEED A FULL STOP**

Just so everyone is on the same page at intersections, folks on bikes may treat stop signs as a yield since Jan. 1, 2020.

They are still required to come to a full stop at a light.

The "Idaho Stop" is the common name for a law that allows cyclists to treat a stop sign as a yield sign, and a red light as a stop sign. It became law in Idaho in 1982, but was not adopted elsewhere until Delaware adopted a limited stop-as-yield law, the Delaware Yield, in 2017. In 2018, Colorado passed a law standardizing the language municipalities or counties would use for a local Idaho Stop or Delaware Yield law, with certain statewide limits. Arkansas adopted the Idaho Stop law in April 2019. The Delaware Yield has been considered in several other states, including Washington which passed such a law in early 2020.

Oregon's law has been in effect since January 1, 2020.

*Richard Hughes
Eugene*

**MANNING NEEDS TO
WALK HIS TALK**

In his latest newsletter, state Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene) tells us, "Citizen engagement is a critical part of a representative democracy. I strongly encourage all my constituents to share testimony so your elected leaders can be confident their decisions represent the will of the Oregon people."

Manning's voting record belies his message. He has repeatedly shown that he has little use for "citizen engagement" or "the will of the people."

In 2019, Manning and his fellow Democrats revoked the voter mandates of Measures 88 (2014) and 97 (2016). With

bogus "emergency" clauses and "Plan B" bills they effectively eliminated the citizen referendum option. Senate Bill 761 suppressed citizen initiatives.

In the current session, Manning co-sponsored SB 554 to remove rights from concealed carry permit holders for no substantiated reason. Against an overwhelming amount of opposing testimony, Manning and his Democrat colleagues passed the bill out of committee on a party line vote. Manning has also targeted the Measure 11 voter mandate with his House Bill 2002.

I respect Sen. Manning for his military service but I've seen these scenarios time and again in my 20-plus years of working legislative issues. He is not the only legislator who disingenuously professes support for citizen participation.

Democrats in this deep blue state have learned that the voters will re-elect them no matter what they do. Accordingly, they have little or no need for citizen engagement and it regularly shows.

*Jerry Ritter
Springfield*

**JUST SAY 'NO' TO
NORTHWEST NATURAL**

In the world of climate science, energy and climate change policymaking, 20 years is a long time. Eugene's 1999 franchise agreement with Northwest Natural has no place in that world.

First, in 1999, the fracked gas revolution had not yet begun. It wasn't until Congress passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and exempted fracking operations from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts — the infamous "Halliburton Loophole" — that fracking really took off. Now 15 million Americans live close to fracking operations.

A recent study found that methane

leaks from natural gas production erase any advantage that natural gas offers advantages in fighting climate change. Methane is 90 times as potent a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide.

Today, man made climate change is much better understood than in 1999. In 2000 the United Nations climate agency, the IPCC, rated the probability that human action was heating the planet at 66 percent, while in 2014, the last report, the probability was 95 percent.

It no longer makes sense for Eugene to allow Northwest Natural to use public rights-of-way. The climate, and the world, have changed. Eugene must change, too.

*Will Watson
Eugene*

**THE UNCOMFORTABLE
TRUTH ABOUT NUCLEAR**

In a recent viewing of *The Washington Post's* video "The Future of Energy," I'm reminded again that the subject of the nuclear option surfaces in most government and industry projections of how to reach Net Zero by 2050, which we must do to survive as a civilization. Rarely mentioned, however, is the uncomfortable fact that nuclear energy is not guaranteed safe on several levels: apocalyptic accidents, waste disposal, uranium mining, and weaponization — of both the technology and the spent rods themselves.

Scrupulously maintaining the existing plants, sealing away the waste as best we can and slowly dismantling and detoxifying the older facilities one at a time as they go out of service is the only acceptable nuclear plan, in my layman's mind. According to the Energy Information Administration, in 2019 the nuclear share of total U.S. electricity generating capacity was 9 percent (3 percent in Oregon). Couldn't we make up those per-

BLACK GIRL FROM EUGENE BY AYISHA ELLIOTT

Out Loud

NAME WHITE MAN'S VIOLENCE

Tragedy strikes — again, and then again. After the initial shock from the swift return to the realities of pre-COVID white man violence towards any and every community that seems out of white supremacy norms, came the now predictive rhetoric of the "who done it" dissonance to follow.

With the news feed after the shooting in Georgia came the audacity to instruct Black people on how to support the Asian community in their time of need — as if tragedy is where our strong suit lies. A white man murders nine people and somehow the narrative of how Black people can do better is interjected in the conversation. This is not about us.

This advice by no others than the white do-gooders who believed that *that* would be the most appropriate course of action. Side note: White folks, stop telling other communities how to act. But I digress.

This whole white privilege thing really has a strong hold,

which prevents the vision of BIPOC sovereignty. Realize that BIPOC people have and do support, love, grow and work together without the directive of a white savior.

The parallels of the oppression throughout BIPOC communities by white supremacy are coming to a head. The microaggressively sexualized or asexualization of women, fetishized, praised for intelligence and ostracized if their language choice is not American English, is absolutely intersectional.

How do we see each other? Is this reality different for Asian Americans? The so-called "model minority"?

Is it evident that we are all working against the same oppression. Is that oppression really understood by the privileged community to have come from BIPOC communities themselves? I want to believe we are past that misconception. But then again...

We all witnessed a Black state legislator being arrested as she politely knocked on the closed doors of the governor signing a bill that is clearly retribution for the Black

success in voting in the last congressional and presidential elections.

As we shout "Black Lives Matter," as we discuss changing the names of mountains back to the original Indigenous glory as well as attempt to normalize bi-cultural standards and immigrants' lived experience, we are still not addressing the perpetual standards that continue to allow these conditions to be defined as a BIPOC problem.

In fact it is these very conditions we are enduring. The white community has to look at how the issues of white dissonance has led to white terrorism and how the false narrative of supremacy has lied to them. If we don't address white violence as a crisis in our society we are actively ignoring evidence of the fallacy of white supremacy and the opportunity to dismantle it. ■

Ayisha Elliott's podcast Black Girl From Eugene is raw and uncensored monologues and conversations about living while Black in the PNW. Listen locally at 11 am Sundays on FB Live; simulcast on KEPW 97.3 FM. Find it on all major podcasting platforms. You can support BGFE at Patreon.com/Blackgirlfromeugene_1.

centages with geothermal, wave power, improved battery capacity, community-based gravity storage of wind and solar electricity and smaller, local, high-tech windmills, not to mention smart highways and buildings, triple-pane windows, passive solar, alternatives to cement, massive and mandatory recycling, more shade trees, better mass transit, less cattle ranching, and overall reduced consumption patterns?

The problem, of course, is profits, and profits in the form of money (as opposed to a healthy planet) are better obtained when big industries control all the levers, including the politicians.

Jack Cooper
Eugene

REVITALIZE, DON'T DESTROY

I have been reading about planned development of Glenwood, including the possibility of a 19-story convention center, and I am mystified.

I live in Glenwood and regularly do business in Springfield and have noticed that the entire city is rather blighted. So why is the city planning to develop a lovely section of riverfront property that should be turned into a park and continuing bike trail rather than doing the important upgrades and infrastructure work needed to revitalize Springfield?

Mohawk Mall, downtown and much

of Main Street are plagued with unoccupied buildings and failing structures that could be revitalized rather than destroying a beautiful section of riverfront. I realize there is money that must be used because of the Glenwood redevelopment tax but that should be used for parks and much needed waterfront development rather than a potential eyesore that is unrentable and unacceptable.

Kris Maenz
Glenwood

NEWMAN FOR 4J SCHOOL BOARD

I served on the 4J board with Judy Newman for two years (2019-2021) and was consistently impressed with her insight, experience and nuanced thinking. We dealt with many difficult issues, none of which are nearly as devastating as the current state of public education and covid safety. Newman's long career as an educator and administrator positions her to be the right guide to get us through these unusual times.

I strongly recommend Newman to continue work for our kids and staff. Having an experienced and wise board member is critical, and she is undoubtedly the right person for the job at the time we need her most.

Eileen Nittler
Eugene

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IN MEMORY OF ROY KEENE

Roy Keene, age 77, passed away peacefully at home on March 31, from heart failure. Roy was a much-loved husband, family member, and forestry consultant.

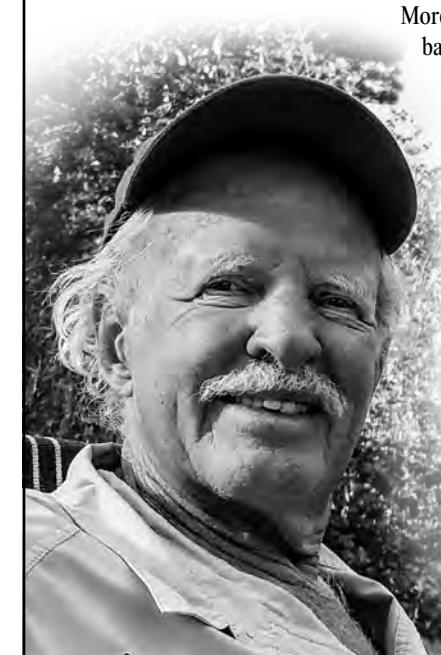
A memorial gathering will be held for Roy at Alton Baker Park, Pavilion #2 in Eugene on Saturday, June 5th at 2 PM, with COVID protocols.

Roy was a gatherer of people. He could meet someone, draw them into conversation, and then into friendship, almost before they knew what had happened. He loved family, valued the work that is necessary to keep relationships real, and poured his energies into those he loved. Roy lived with a deep, abiding faith in God, and was a Spiritual Minister, volunteering to conduct marriages for friends and family.

Roy led a quality life, full of fun and adventure. He seemed to live far more than just one lifetime, and had many exciting adventures. He was a truly unique individual, having lived "off the grid" in the southern Oregon wilderness, and out of a canoe in Alaska. He lived in a miner's cabin, and dredged for gold in the Illinois river. He loved exploring the West and strived to travel every back road. Devoted to Patty, his wife of 34 years, they travelled in their camper, often without a destination, just for the fun of seeing where the road took them.

Quick to laugh, Roy loved gatherings, was generous of spirit, and cooked for whoever stopped in to visit. His son, Hart, was his closest friend, and they talked daily, went on father-son road trips, and truly enjoyed being together. Some of his deepest friendships lasted decades, and he was a father figure to younger folks, welcoming them into his extended family. He was a skilled photographer, donating his time to shoot weddings, parties and portraits.

Roy was a stalwart wilderness advocate, dedicated leader, and passionate voice for public forests. He worked for decades with environmentalists, politicians, tribal elders, educators and private forest owners. With unbounded enthusiasm, Roy taught many people how to understand and value the outdoors, both personally and professionally. Roy received the Wilderness Society's "Environmental Hero" award for his unique leadership in establishing two wilderness areas in Oregon. Roy was a guest on Bill Moyers' "Listening to America," Day One's "Timber Theft," and PBS's "Critical Habitat." He co-produced the award-winning educational film, "Forests for the Future," shown to middle school students in the Northwest. He was instrumental in establishing the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness and in enlarging the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in Oregon.



More recently, he was influential in passing an aerial spray ban legislation in Lincoln County. Roy was director of Our Forests, a local, non-profit volunteer group dedicated to preserving vital public resources for future generations.

A prolific writer, Roy wrote hundreds of opinion editorials and technical reports which were published in newspapers and scientific journals across the United States. Roy worked at Windermere Real Estate as a Realtor and land consultant, where he taught classes on rural land issues, mentored newer realtors, and took time to help colleagues.

Roy had strong beliefs and a sureness in following those beliefs, blazing new trails throughout his life. He brought abundant love to his relationships and will be missed by many.

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Fighting for Representation

LAURAL O'ROURKE AND HARRY SANGER VIE FOR A SPOT ON THE 4J SCHOOL BOARD

By Taylor Perse

In a time when a pandemic has called attention to access to education, equity for people of color and more diversity in schools, every position available on Eugene School District 4J board is now contested.

In mid-March, 4J board member Anne Marie Levis stepped down from her seat on position two and endorsed Loural O'Rourke. Levis told *Eugene Weekly* that she was looking for the right person to fill her spot, and realized O'Rourke was the right thing for the school board and could do things Levis couldn't do.

Shortly after the announcement, a new candidate, Harry Sanger, decided to run for the position, filing on the last day.

Sanger says he chose to run after seeing that Levis chose to step down. Now the two candidates will be on the ballot for position two of the board for the May 18 special election.

O'Rourke works with Lane County Human Services, currently managing a program that supports residents displaced by the wildfires and is a parent of 4J students. In addition to Levis' endorsement, she has received the backing of the Eugene Education Association, former Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and several current 4J board members, among others.

Sanger, a project coordinator with Lane Transit District (LTD) and a board member of the River Road Community organization, says he had not yet received endorsements at the time he was interviewed for this article.

One of the central ideas of O'Rourke's platform is addressing equity, specifically the question of how to get equity into schools when there is no Black or Indigenous voice. O'Rourke says there needs to be other voices on the board who bring their perspectives to the table. People who know the pain of marginalization need to be heard.

"I understand it at the profound level, which they will not, and then it is not just the monolithic white voice, which we have now," O'Rourke says.

Another component of building equity is bettering communication between other parents and teachers O'Rourke says. As a mother of three children with

Individualized Education Plans (IEP), which help kids with disabilities, she says parents don't feel listened to when they advocate for the best course of action for their children, and teachers don't feel like they can speak freely.

O'Rourke adds that part of cultivating different perspectives is having a diverse workforce, which she also advocates for. Growing up in Eugene, O'Rourke says she knows the struggle of being the only Black person in a classroom.

"I never had a teacher who looked like me at school, not once," she says. "That would have been amazing." Though O'Rourke acknowledges that there has been progress, it is still a problem.

A group of white people in the room can talk about equity, she explains, and often a Black person in the same room can explain what it's like for them, but O'Rourke says it's like they are talking about a ghost "because every

'I SEE DAILY WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A BLACK PERSON IN THIS COMMUNITY, AND WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO. I WANT TO BE A PART OF THAT WORK.'

— Loural O'Rourke, 4J board candidate

white person in the room can't see it," but the Black person can. These issues should be addressed by helping retain teachers of color and having stronger policies against biased treatment, she says.

O'Rourke also wants the district to better prepare kids for graduation and provide better support and resources for those who do not end up attending college. The idea, which she calls "skills before bills," will help those who want to pursue trade school or other non-collegiate careers. She says a student's safety time is before they turn 18, when they have to be in school.

"What would be best if someone says, 'I don't want to go to college, I want to do something else'? What if they could leave school and go to a local beauty school or welding school?" O'Rourke says.

Regardless of how the election pans out, O'Rourke

wants to continue to advocate for these issues and for students of color.

"I see daily what it means to be a Black person in this community, and we have a lot of work to do," she says. "I want to be a part of that work."

Sanger has some different ideas about representation and what he wants to see change in the district. He says his motivation for running is to be a voice for parents who are frustrated with how schools are operating, he says. As a 4J parent, Sanger says that he's often thought highly of 4J schools, but was upset with the way the district handled COVID-19 and the return to in-person teaching.

"I understand that in reopening schools we have to follow the guidelines put in place statewide, but I was disappointed that 4J didn't have a solid plan ready to go," Sanger says. He adds that he understands both parents that wanted more and parents who wanted less restrictions.

Acknowledging the district did some things well, such as shifting to online learning in a short time frame and the lunch program, Sanger says there seemed to be a lack of support for IEP students.

"Distance learning has a lot of caveats. After a year of doing this we need to figure out a way for individual cases better," he says, adding that at the end of the day, no parent should be forced to send their kids back to in-person learning.

Sanger also says he wants to address transparency and accountability in general. He says the 4J board meetings hardly take any comments, maxing out at around 10 speakers and only letting them speak for several minutes. He says LTD tries to accommodate anyone who wants to speak.

"The way it is now is really limiting," Sanger says. "We need a way for parents to have direct lines of communication."

He is also advocating for strategic use of taxpayer money. The district needs to recognize that the past year has been extremely difficult, Sanger says, and there must be enough mental health resources available for students who are struggling.

"The focus was lost in the last year. They are the future and we owe it to them to provide the best we can with resources we have," Sanger says.

O'Rourke is also advocating for more mental health resources for students, and wants to set up a peer counseling program. One of the reason's Levis decided to drop out of the race and endorse O'Rourke was their aligned views on mental health in schools. ■

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Expanding Internet on the Coast

FLORENCE'S SIUSLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDRESSES THE URBAN/RURAL DIGITAL DIVIDE PRESENT IN ITS STUDENT BODY

By Mark Howard

The Siuslaw School District (SSD) in Florence is blessed with beautiful Oregon Coast scenery. But this small rural Lane County school district is stricken with poverty, and many students are disadvantaged concerning availability to internet connectivity and digital devices.

When COVID-19 struck, many SSD students didn't have the technical resources for the virtual learning the pandemic required. Fortunately, the SSD community rose to the challenge.

"One big difference between urban or rural, is that we have a whole lot of places in our area that don't have any internet at all," says SSD Board member Suzanne Mann-Heintz. "You know, they're too far out. Whereas most places in Eugene and Springfield do have internet."

A First Book COVID-19 Response Survey says that as of May 2020, 40 percent of students in Oregon were without reliable internet, and 37 percent lacked devices needed for remote learning. SSD is no exception. First Book is a

director Dave Standridge says its funds are typically calculated by enrollment, but he says there are other government finances available, called Title I funds. "There are poverty factors that weigh into it to receive additional funding," Standridge says. Title I funds give financial assistance to local educational agencies and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families.

SSD received approximately \$600,000 in Title I funds for the 2019-2020 school year and received about \$800,000 through Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) in late 2020.

Because of those funds, Mann-Heintz says SSD was able to help students access wifi using devices called mobile hotspots that

'FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS OR SO WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO ADD TO OUR CHROMEBOOKS SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE ADEQUATE NUMBERS FOR OUR CLASSROOMS. AT THIS TIME, WE DO HAVE A CHROMEBOOK FOR EVERY STUDENT, AND THAT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL.'

— Suzanne Mann-Heintz, SSD board member

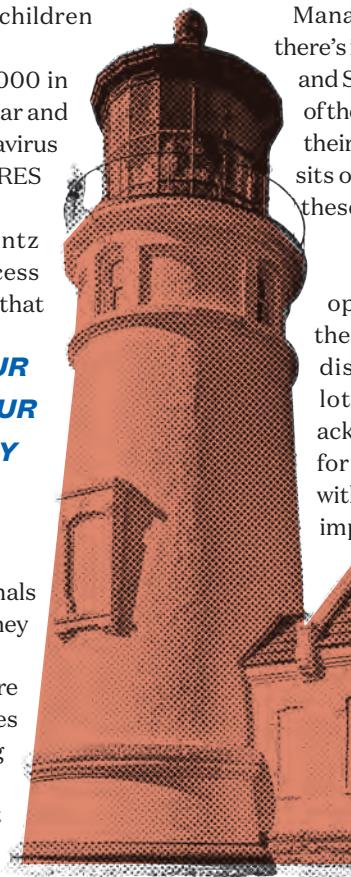
nonprofit organization that provides resources to schools and educational programs to help disadvantaged children. According to SSD's food service supervisor about 72 percent of SSD's families are on free and reduced lunches.

Florence's *Siuslaw News* reported that in August 2020, SSD received the Creating Learning Connections corporate grant which included \$4,000 and 350 Google Chromebooks. This helped many students, but it wasn't enough to cover SSD's needs.

Lane Education Service District (LESD) business

convert cellular connections into wifi signals and allow students to use the internet if they don't have it at home.

"We have a number of students who we're helping subsidize their internet expenses so they can access the distance learning programs," Mann-Heintz says. "And we have some students who don't have internet where they are, so we have hotspots that we can loan to those families."



Siuslaw Elementary School opened for hybrid learning Feb. 22. SSD's middle and high school began hybrid learning on March 8, according to SSD's website. The hybrid learning model combines smaller in-person classes with online classes.

Regarding LESD's funding, SSD's Business Manager Kari Blake says she doesn't believe there's inequality between funds allotted to Eugene and Siuslaw school districts. "They get a portion of the state school fund, and that gets allocated to their districts," Blake says. "Our superintendent sits on their board and has voting rights to how these dollars will be spent."

As for corporate grants, it's different.

"I think that there are some funding opportunities that smaller schools miss the boat on because of the size of the school districts," Mann-Heintz says. "Luckily, a lot of foundations and organizations are acknowledging the need for specific funding for regions with higher numbers of children with special needs and children with economic impact problems."

SSD used grant funds to purchase needed Chromebooks for students' home-use and have already been stockpiling.

"For the last eight years or so we've been trying to add to our Chromebooks so that we would have adequate numbers for our classrooms," Mann-Heintz says. "At this time, we do have a Chromebook for every student, and that's a pretty big deal." ■

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As the pandemics hit the one year mark, we feel optimistic about the end being in sight. Still *Eugene Weekly* relies on advertising revenue almost entirely to pay our staff and overhead. As you know, many of these business we rely on like event and restaurant advertising among others have been almost fully curtailed during the last year.

If you can, support Lane County's foremost source of news arts and culture. We have been serving the Eugene & Springfield area for going on 40 years now.

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slant

• OK all you billionaire art collectors, now's your chance to buy some exquisite collectible digital art — and support *Eugene Weekly* in the process. Following on a worldwide trend, *EW* has created a non-fungible token, or NFT, version of this week's delightful cover image by Chelsea Lovejoy and is offering the digital file at an online auction. This is a unique edition of one; you can find the listing and begin bidding at EugeneWeekly.com/NFT. All proceeds go to support our news coverage. The auction runs until 5 pm Friday, April 23.

• A woman's place is in the House — Oregon's House of Representatives, that is. **Rep. Andrea Valderrama** of Portland was sworn into office April 1. Valderrama replaces Diego Hernandez, who resigned shortly before facing a House vote on whether to expel him over cases of sexual harassment at the Capitol. With Valderrama's appointment, women (Republican and Democrat) hold a majority in the House for the first time in Oregon's history.

• The May 18 election is coming up quickly in Lane County — that's when **voters in school districts across the area decide on hotly contested school board races**. The big race in Eugene is for School District 4J with three seats to fill on the board. The City Club of Eugene is putting on a candidate forum Friday, April 9, starting at noon on its Facebook and YouTube pages. Candidates for position three are Tom DiLiberto, incumbent Judy Newman and Brian Costa; Maya Rabasa is running for position six; and Laural O'Rourke and Harry Sanger are competing for position two (see our story this week). Incumbent Anne Marie Levis dropped out of the position two race to help clear the path for O'Rourke, a woman with an impressive resume whose had three children with Individualized Education Program and who knows how school feels for a person of color.

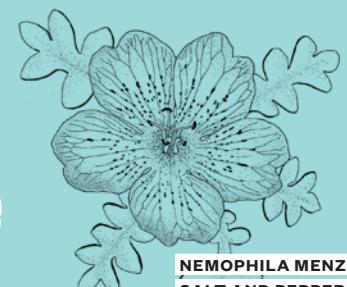
• **Congratulations to this year's two Oregon Book Awards finalists from Eugene:** Ruby McConnell, for *Ground Truth: A Geological Survey of a Life* (Overcup Press), a finalist for the Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction; and Kathryn Ormsbee, for *The Sullivan Sisters* (Simon & Schuster), a finalist for the Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Adult Literature. Kudos, also, to Elizabeth Lyon, who receives the Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award. Lyon is a noted editor and writer of books on editing and marketing.

• A big bravo to Nancy Webber and the Eugene Civic Alliance staff for putting on what we hope is the first annual **Easter Egg hunt and celebration at the site of the old Civic Stadium**. About 200 kids from all over the area joined in to chase eggs and play. The Civic project still needs to raise more money, but what could be more important for that 10 acres nearly in the center of the city than a place for kids to play?

• As of April 19, **every Oregonian over the age of 16 will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine**. If you are a healthy adult able to get the vaccine, then get the damn thing. And help those who are less able to access the vaccine get their shot, too. The science is there, and a poke with a needle is better than a ventilator.

It's About Time

by David Wagner



NEMOPHILA MENZIESII - SALT AND PEPPER

Our transition from rainy season through spring to summer is not a steady process. This past rainy season was never interrupted with winter in the Willamette Valley; snow and freezing were essentially absent on the valley floor. There were nights that got below freezing, but we never had temperatures below freezing for days on end, the kind of freeze that causes pipes to burst. Chilly has been the theme: beautiful sunny days but often with chilly winds and rainy weather that was plain chilly day and night. We had many cycles of bright and sunny alternating with gloomy and chilly.

With the passage of Equinox, sunny days have warmed the ground enough to initiate the wave of leafing out and flowering in woodlands and prairies. April and May are our prime lowland wildflower months. It is not until June that ridgetops in the foothills burst into maximum color mode. Between rocky outcrops, steep meadows, seepy ravines and shady north cliffs, ridge top flower diversity is fabulous. Ridgetop habitats also mean thin soil that dries out quickly; they pass peak flowering quickly. The high mountain meadows open more slowly but last longer, all through summer up to the Cascade crest.

Flower sniffing and butterfly watching tend to be considered something that only old timers do. Academic snobs look on natural history as somewhat borderline science. However, modern technology has enraptured the traditionalists. Contemporary digital photography has enriched nature appreciation in ways never imagined by those who started photography in darkrooms.

David Wagner is a botanist who has worked in Eugene for more than 40 years. He teaches moss classes, leads nature walks and publishes the Oregon Nature Calendar. For information about getting the 2021 Oregon Nature Calendar, contact him directly at fernzenmosses@me.com.

BUY OUR COVER

YOU, TOO, CAN OWN A UNIQUE PIECE OF COLLECTIBLE, LOCALLY PRODUCED CRYPTO ART
— AND SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM IN THE PROCESS. HERE'S HOW.

By Bob Keefer

For the first time ever, *Eugene Weekly* is offering the public the chance to buy the cover of our newspaper. That's digitally speaking, of course. We've converted the cover of today's paper — our annual Tech Issue — into a digital file that is a unique NFT, or "non-fungible token." The image, by *EW* designer Chelsea Lovejoy, is an allusion to René Magritte's 1929 painting "Ceci n'est pas une pipe." The painting, also titled "*La Trahison des images* (The Treachery of Images)," is itself a commentary on the insubstantiality of art.

The *EW* cover in NFT form is up for sale at OpenSea.io. The online auction will run until 5 pm April 23.

All proceeds from the sale, after expenses, will go to help fund *EW*'s news operation.

In case you're not familiar with NFTs, they are the current darling at the intersection of art and technology. They depend, like cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, on blockchain technology, which allows the creation of unique, non-reproducible digital files with clearly established ownership.

In just the past few months, NFT art, from portraits and landscapes to cartoon cats and avatars, has been sold online for staggering sums of money. On March 11, a digital collage of photos by Mike Winkelmann, the artist known as Beeple, sold at auction online for \$69 million.

Eugene artist Michael Salter, a professor of art/new media at the University of Oregon, recently listed three of his own digital works in NFT form for auction at Foundation.app.

"My work at its heart is an inquiry into capitalism and value, so this whole thing for me is an extended experiment to see and feel how it works," he writes in an email to *EW*.

Salter notes that many people don't see value in art that doesn't exist in physical form, much as many don't trust the value of currencies like Bitcoin. "All the weirdness

that surrounds cryptocurrency pervades the process(es) in the NFT market," he writes. "I think many people have no interest due to the abstract nature of the currency."

The lack of a physical object for critics and collectors to touch or examine also means the art market has "few standards or critical discourse" about NFTs, he says.

Nonetheless, Salter remains hopeful.

"I do believe the market itself will have a long period to develop in order to have the kind of aesthetics, conceptual fortitude and seriousness I hope to see in any kind of art," he writes. "Until that moment I am just a curious

on the Blockchain!"

It sold for \$560,000; the money will go to the *Times'* Neediest Case Fund.

Much like the *Times* piece, the *EW* cover that is being auctioned is an ordinary digital image file that incorporates a unique blockchain identifier. As a result, the buyer will take ownership of the file, though copyright and reproduction rights to the cover image and text remain with *Eugene Weekly*.

One of the most interesting aspects of NFT art is that blockchain technology captures a complete history of ownership of any work. In the art world, that's called a "provenance," and provenances are often missing or even forged for important works. An NFT art work has a guaranteed provenance built in.

Eugene Weekly's NFT cover image can also be resold; in that event *EW* will receive a 10 percent royalty, paid by the buyer, on the resale.

The surge in sales of NFT art has renewed concerns over the environmental costs of blockchain technology, which uses a vast amount of computer processing power — meaning a lot of electricity. In the absence of any clear consensus about the actual environmental cost of any single NFT art work, we will use a substantial portion of any money we receive to boost our environmental coverage.

We'll also run a follow-up story after the sale and interview the successful buyer, if they're willing.

This is, to our knowledge, the first time a newspaper in Oregon has offered an NFT version of one of its pages for sale, so this file

could have future value as a collectible item.

To bid, go to EugeneWeekly.com/NFT. You'll need to open a cryptocurrency "wallet," or account, to bid using the cryptocurrency Ether, which you can purchase online in dollar amounts with a credit or debit card; we suggest you create your wallet at MetaMask.io. ■



player in this strange, new, often complex but fascinating marketplace."

NFTs have also crossed the line into the world of newspapers; as an experiment, on March 24 *The New York Times* auctioned an NFT image of a story its columnist Kevin Roose wrote titled "Buy This Column

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BROADBAND FOR ALL

INTERNET STRENGTH IN LANE COUNTY'S RURAL AREAS IS GETTING BETTER THANKS TO GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

By Henry Houston

For more than a year, many people in Lane County have been working from home, but for rural residents, it's been a period of spotty service, frozen Zoom screens and expensive bills.

But there's hope, even as the COVID-19 pandemic loosens its grip, that rural internet could improve.

In Lane County, government grants are helping nonprofits and companies expand internet connection for rural homes. The pathway to better rural internet access includes government grants to smaller internet service providers to provide necessary infrastructure, as well as resiliency in case of natural disasters. And delivery requires deciding when to use fiber optic cables, wireless — or both.

Months after the start of the pandemic, the state agency Business Oregon received millions of dollars in federal CARES Act money to distribute to companies and nonprofit organizations in Oregon. Locally owned Lane Fi was one of the recipients, receiving \$145,354.34.

Lane Fi Chief Operating Officer Madeleine Sisson says the company was on track to providing fiber optic cable access to homes in the southwest Eugene area, but money from Business Oregon jump-started their efforts to move beyond there.

"People were still signing up for our service because we were in the middle of a pandemic, so everyone needed the internet super badly," she says.

Lane Fi specializes in providing fiber optic cables to homes and businesses in the rural area. Though its customers are currently located in southwest Eugene, Sisson says the company can easily bring fast internet that's reliable to other areas.

Lane Fi Chief Executive Officer Nolie Scheid says fiber optic cable technology is simpler and more efficient than wireless. A fiber optic cable is passive, he adds, meaning there isn't a need for electricity to boost the internet signal. Lane Fi started with wireless internet delivery, he says, but faced with high maintenance costs and obstruction from trees, it transitioned to fiber optic cables.

Sisson says Lane Fi is wrapping up a project that will have laid 10 miles of fiber optic cables, providing high speed internet for 130 residents who are able to access Lane Fi's internet. With the Business Oregon grant, the company has plans to expand fiber optic infrastructure to about 750 residents in the rural southwest Eugene area, Sisson says.

The company's model has a grassroots aspect, in which it delivers fiber optic cable if enough demand is clustered in close proximity. "If people are interested in our service, they can reach out to us," she says. "Even if you were in Idaho, we could get you service, you just have to have enough people interested in the area."

There has been some demand for Lane Fi's services in southeast Eugene, but Scheid says the company is currently focused on delivering fiber optic cables to their wireless customers and maintaining internet speeds.

The state of rural internet right now, Sisson says, isn't that great. In some areas residents have a few choices from big name corporations, but the reception is poor — and some people even struggle to send an email. There are smartphone hotspots, too, but those can make monthly cell phone bills costly, she adds.

Sisson says about 10 percent of Lane Fi's customers are

small business owners, in addition to the number of people learning and working from home.

Although Lane Fi spent CARES Act money to accelerate fiber optic cable delivery in rural areas, the funding doesn't mean residents are accessing Lane Fi's internet service for free, Scheid says.

Scheid says some companies advertise high speeds but don't deliver. Lane Fi places the cables on utility poles, so it offers faster speeds, and Scheid says the company's infrastructure could handle 10 gigabit speeds eventually.

Local internet service providers like Lane Fi will lead the charge on bringing broadband to rural areas, says Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch, who represents much of rural south Lane County.

"They're the only ones willing to go out into these communities that are less dense and work out an actual plan to get to as many houses as possible," Buch says.

Buch says Lane County's economic development arm has a plan for bringing rural internet — and has had it on paper for years. The missing puzzle piece is political will and funding, she adds. But with the pandemic and historic wildfires, interest from Congress has increased. "Rural internet is something that people rely on every day for basic tasks but also critical to our safety in case of natural disasters," Buch says. "Our biggest hurdle beyond political will and resources is our topography."

Lane County's geography, she adds, makes it challenging to dig underground for fiber optic infrastructure, and the abundance of trees makes wireless difficult. The county needs a system that uses a mixture of a fiber backbone, wifi hopping and trenching for broadband, Buch says. And then you have to factor in how to be resilient when a natural disaster hits, she adds.

As a county commissioner, Buch says she's been advocating for more fiber optic resiliency, emergency communications and redundancies, "so if it fails, there's backup." She adds, "It is really important in the context of climate change and natural disaster resiliency."

An example of what Buch is advocating for will soon be in the town of Blue River.

Onward Eugene, an economic development nonprofit, received a \$300,000 grant from Project Overcome, a \$2.7 million effort to expand broadband internet throughout the country supported by U.S. Ignite, the National Science Foundation and Schmidt Futures firm. Blue River is the only town in the U.S. West to receive the money for internet development.

"How to better build internet infrastructure in a way that's resilient to natural disasters," Onward Eugene Managing Director Matt Sayre says, when you have long stretches of fiber optic cable along the highways, it's a big surface area for something to go wrong. And that's exactly what happened to McKenzie after the Holiday Farm Fire."

So, Sayre adds, Onward Eugene's plan is to build the internet "back better" in McKenzie. Blue River has one connection to broadband, he adds, "which is literally a cable on a phone pole." And the educational network



GEOFF TURNER OF ELEVATE TECH GROUP AND MATT SAYRE OF ONWARD EUGENE

will provide around 100 hotspot wifi devices for families around the burn area in Blue River, he says.

If the fiber optic connection on Highway 126 is disrupted, Sayre says, the school in the area would still have an internet connection through the resilience connection. Any students or families relying on the school's hotspots would have wireless access since it'll work even if the electricity is cut after a natural disaster.

The hotspots will get internet connection wirelessly from Bend, via a "microwave backhaul" connection.

Geoff Turner, CEO of Elevate Technology Group based in Portland, is one of the partners on the Blue River project. Turner says the microwave backhaul was originally designed by the Oregon Internet Response, a group that assisted restoring the internet in the McKenzie River area after the Holiday Farm Fire. Elevate Tech then took ownership of the idea and upgraded it, he adds.

Basically a microwave backhaul uses radio waves to communicate data, and for this project, the connection network goes from Bend to Hoodoo Ski Area to an EWEB tower in the middle of nowhere to Belknap Bluff. "Instead of running fiber across lava fields and things like that, which would take a lot of time and money, wireless technology is cheaper and quicker to get in place," he says.

The Blue River project starts immediately and plans to be active in fall 2021, and Sayre says the project intends to make frugality a priority so it can be a resiliency model for other rural areas. "We are hopeful that this isn't going to just make things better for folks in Blue River, but hope it inspires other communities to take action and address this challenge so we'll all be prepared for a challenge in the future," he says.

And the project has already led to some investment in other rural areas near Blue River.

Turner says the federal grant is an opportunity to build out reliable internet in the McKenzie area and Elevate Tech is investing around \$200,000 to \$300,000 to expand past Blue River. Elevate Tech's investment will provide internet service to Rainbow, McKenzie Bridge and Belknap areas while using local contractors for jobs, such as excavating, to keep the money circulating in the local economy.

"We're taking what we're building on and expanding past that because there are people who need it," Turner says. "We're going to keep building on top of it and keep investing in the area." ■



Environmental and climate justice takes center stage this week with two free virtual events. The first, this weekend, is the inaugural **Environmental Justice Pathways Summit**, sponsored by Beyond Toxics and the Eugene-Springfield branch of the NAACP and held in conjunction with the University of Oregon's Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples Lecture. The summit's goal, organizers say, is to create "a collaborative network and policy guidelines dedicated to environmental justice in the state of Oregon." Keynote speakers for the two-day event are Sheila Watt Cloutier, a Canadian Inuit activist (pictured), and Mustafa Santiago Ali of the National Wildlife Federation. On April 14, the Oregon Community Rights Network (ORCRN) will host **Protecting Mother Earth: The history and possibilities as experienced by Native Americans**. The webinar's speakers include Dina Gilio-Whitaker of the Colville Confederated Tribes, Elliott Moffett of the Nez Perce Tribe and Joseph C. Scott of the Confederated Tribe of Siletz.

The Environmental Justice Pathways Summit starts at 10 am on both Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10. Registration is at BeyondToxics.org. ORCRN's "Protecting Mother Earth" webinar is 6 pm April 14. RSVP to reserve a Zoom link at Info@ORCRN.org.
—Dan Buckwalter

GENERAL

LISTINGS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

ACTIVIST ALERT

Thursday, April 15: Covid-19 Litigation, 3-5pm. More info at CLDC.org.

ART EXHIBITS

Animal Collective - Invitational Exhibition (thru April 10), Karin Clarke Gallery.

Coastal Waters, Desert Sands, Oil Paintings by Margaret Prentice (thru April 24), White Lotus Gallery.

Transcending Borders (April 9-30), Maude Kerns Art Ctr.

Garrick Imatani: *Monologue* (thru May 1), noon-4pm by appointment, Anti-Aesthetic.

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, JSMA.UOregon.edu.

FILM

Heritage Broadcasting Service (Eugene) has 121 titles to choose from, including recent additions *Coffee for All Nations, Inhabiting Summers of History & Message from Mungo*. More info at Heritagetac.org.

GATHERINGS

Free Tax Help (thru April 11). Appointments required. Call 541-954-7941 or email LaneTaxHelp@gmail.com.

Job Search Help by appointment at the downtown library. Call 541-686-7985 to schedule.

HEALTH

YMCA Choose-Your-Own Fitness Adventure: Oregon Edition (March 15-Sept. 13). More info at EugeneYMCA.org.

Zoom workout classes at CrossFit. Email Contact@

CrossFitIntensify.com for more info.

Workout classes at IAmForeverStrong.com.

Workout classes at Evolve Fitness Studios. More info at Facebook.

Workout & Yoga Classes at West Lane Fitness in Veneta. More info at WestLaneFitness.com.

Yoga & Workout Classes at Yoga West Eugene. More info at YogaWestEugene.com.

Yoga classes at EugeneYoga.us; WildLightYogaCenter.com; EugeneMudra.com; HotYogaEugeneBalanced.com; YogaEugene.com.

All levels of yoga (chair, advanced, yoga for health care workers and children) at Vista Wellness Ctr. Visit VistaPsych.com for more info.

KIDS/FAMILY

StoryWalks in the Parks w/ Eugene Public Library (Sheldon Community Ctr. - "The Tiniest Star" - thru April 12; Petersen Barn Community Ctr. - "Dreamers/Soñadores" - thru May 3). More info at 541-682-5450 or at Eugene.or.gov/library.

LECTURES/CLASSES

The Gutenberg Dialogues: An In-depth look at Tyranny (every Wednesday thru May 19), 6:30-8pm. More info at Gutenberg.edu. \$32-63.

THURSDAY

APRIL 8

ARTS/CRAFTS

Galleria at The Smith: Artist Gallery & Marketplace, noon-6pm, 786 E. 13th Ave.

HEALTH

NAMI Family Support Zoom Group @ NAMILane.org. RSVP at NAMILane.org.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Healing through Discussion Support Group (via Zoom), 9:30-11am, HealingAttention.org. \$15.

Career Exploration Workshop, 10am. More info at Eugene.or.gov.

Glenn Adamson "Craft in America: Real and Ideal," 3pm. Link at Calendar.UO-regon.edu.

Live Virtual Sexuality Education - Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon, 4-5pm, Planned-Parenthood.org. \$100.

Conversations for the Curious, 6-7pm, MNCHUoregon.edu.

Create Is a Verb, 6-8pm, WordCrafters.org. FREE-\$15.

MUSIC

Skip Jones & Steve Arriola, 6pm, Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

Thursday eKLeCtic, 8-10pm, KLCC, 89.7FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29

RECREATION

Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 6-8pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage Grove (weather permitting; more info on Facebook).

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7-8am, Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, 352 W. 12th Ave.

FARMERS MARKETS

Saturday Farmers Market, 9am-3pm, 5th Ave. between High & Oak streets.

FILM

Wheels & Reels Weekend Drive In Movie: *An American Werewolf in London*, 8:30pm, Old Nick's Pub. \$8.

FOOD/DRINK

A Green Tea Tasting Via Zoom, 11am, SMJHouse.org. \$32.

GATHERINGS

Clay Club, 1-2pm, Transponder.Community.

Trans Community Support Group, 3:30-5pm, Transponder.Community.

Virtual Lego Club w/ Springfield Public Library, 3:30pm, Springfield-or.libcal.com.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Small Business Messaging That Matters, noon. RSVP link at Willamette.Score.org.

MARKETS

Eugene Saturday Market, 10am-4pm, Park Blocks, 8th Ave. & Oak St.

The Emporium Veneta, a pop-up shop, noon-6pm, Elmira Grange, 88764 Sprague Rd.

MUSIC

Geoffrey Mays, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards.

The Fred May Band, 6:30pm, Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

ON THE AIR

The Dr. Yeti Show, 10pm-midnight, KOCF, 92.5 FM or streamed at KOCF.org.

The Institute of Spectra Sound, 10pm-midnight, KEPW, 97.3 FM

RECREATION

2nd Saturday Trivia (socially distanced), 6pm, Viking Bragot Co. on Commercial St.

LITERARY ARTS

Book talk: *Form as Harmony in Rock Music*, noon, OHC.UOregon.edu.

LECTURES/CLASSES

The Cascade Hop & the Craft Beer Revolution, noon. RSVP the link at EPLFoundation.org.

Conversations About Our World Talk Series I: the Power of Indigenous Stories and Art, 2-2:45pm, GSI. UOregon.edu.

Expression Through Art (via Zoom), 4-5pm. More info at HealingAttention.org. \$15.

MARKETS

The Emporium Veneta, a pop-up shop, noon-6pm, Elmira Grange, 88764 Sprague Rd.

RECREATION

Brewers Guild Bingo, 3-6pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage Grove (weather permitting; more info on Facebook).

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 4:30pm, Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, 352 W. 12th Ave.

Eugene Insight Meditation via Zoom, 6:30pm, Eugene-Insight.com.

SUNDAY

APRIL 11

GATHERINGS

Burrito Brigade, 11am-4pm. More info at BurritoBrigade.org.

Hendricks Park Walking Tour, 1pm, Hendricks Park, Summit Ave & Skyline Blvd.

HEALTH

Occupy Medical, noon-4pm, 1717 Centennial Blvd, Spfd.

MARKETS

The Emporium Veneta, a pop-up shop, noon-6pm, Elmira Grange, 88764 Sprague Rd.

RECREATION

Brewers Guild Bingo, 3-6pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage Grove (weather permitting; more info on Facebook).

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 4:30pm, Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, 352 W. 12th Ave.

Eugene Insight Meditation via Zoom, 6:30pm, Eugene-Insight.com.

MONDAY

APRIL 12

KIDS/FAMILY

Activity Kits for Kids: Make Milagros, 10am, all Eugene Public Library locations.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. \$1.

Live Virtual Sexuality Education - Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon, 4-5:15pm, Planned-Parenthood.org. \$100.

TUESDAY

APRIL 13

KIDS/FAMILY

Family Storytime, 11am, Eugene Public Library Facebook.

LECTURES/CLASSES

Gentle Restorative Yoga w/ Alison Saar & Hank Willis Thomas in Conversation w/ Hamza Walker, 4-5:30pm, Calendar.UOregon.edu.

Live Virtual Sexuality Education - Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon, 4-5pm, Planned-Parenthood.org. \$100.

Conversations for the Curious, 6-7pm, MNCHUoregon.edu.

MUSIC

Skip Jones & Steve Arriola, 6pm, Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

Thursday eKLeCtic, 8-10pm, KLCC, 89.7FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29

RECREATION

Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 6-8pm, Covered Bridge Brewing Group in Cottage Grove (weather permitting; more info on Facebook).

SPIRITUAL

Zen Meditation, 7-8am, Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, 352 W. 12th Ave.

ATTENTION

It's that time of year to lace up the running shoes and see Eugene through sweat and tears. The annual Eugene Marathon is virtual this year for the average supporter with cowbells or signs because of COVID, but runners will have the opportunity April 23 through 25 to labor through either a 26-mile course or the half marathon. Additionally, there's a 5K run as well as the Duck Dash. Registration is at EugeneMarathon.com, and good luck.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WHITE LOTUS GALLERY

Margaret Prentice Just Wants to Paint

A SHOW AT WHITE LOTUS REFLECTS A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE 'RETIRED' EUGENE ARTIST

By Ester Barkai

Just as artist Margaret Prentice was nearing retirement, she experienced a rebirth of sorts. She began a new way of working and even of seeing the world. The results are on view in her third solo exhibit at White Lotus Gallery, *Coastal Waters/Desert Sands: Oil Paintings by Margaret Prentice*, showing until April 24.

About 10 years ago, recovering from radiation treatment, chemotherapy and surgery, Prentice understandably had little energy. But her identical twin sister, also an artist, said, "You can't just sit around and not do anything."

Prentice by then had enjoyed a long and accomplished career as an art professor at the University of Oregon, as a paper and art book maker, and as a printer. But recovering from her illness, she didn't have the strength to operate her very large and special-made 4-by-8-foot printing press, much less carry out the laborious process involved with printmaking.

Her sister set her up at the kitchen table with a small easel and primary oil paint colors, like one might do for a beginner. After all, Prentice had never painted with oils before.

Painting, she says, was just supposed to be fun, something to do for entertainment. From the start though, it was a revelation. Printing, she had to add colors to an

image one at a time. But with paint she could mix and add as she pleased. She was captivated by the ease and also the challenge of matching colors to what she saw.

Up to then, she'd worked as an abstract artist or in a style she describes as "magic realism." Once she began to paint, she traded magic realism for the magic of realism. She replaced the impossibly weightless and half human, half cacti figures in her previous work with sky and sand, light and shadow, and — most of all — color. Not abstract, detached from reality colors, but ones attached to the real world.

Her favorite spot on the Oregon Coast is Heceta Beach — at least three paintings of Heceta are in the show — and it's where she took her sister during the kitchen table phase. As usual, Prentice took photographs while at the beach. When she returned, rather than painting another still life, she gave landscape painting a try. An entirely different and productive artistic period in her life was born.

Prentice likes that painting landscapes takes her outside. The biggest compliment she can receive, she says, is when people say that her paintings transport them.

For her, subject matter is about love for places. This show reflects that love: She has 24 paintings of places in it. Half are of high desert areas like those outside Tucson, Arizona, Taos, New Mexico and Oregon near Bend. The other half are places by the water like, "Heceta Head

Beach" and "A Favorite Spot to Relax at the Coast."

How has Prentice's work evolved these past 10 years, since she started painting? She no longer works at the kitchen table. She likes working big — but not too big. Still dealing with certain physical limitations and being a practical person, she wants to exert her energy on painting, she says, not on packing or shipping.

The size of her paintings is as large as she can transport in her car, and no larger. At this stage in her life, Prentice is highly aware of how she spends her time. She knows she could or should be reaching out to galleries in Portland or elsewhere.

"The paintings are stacking up," she says.

But she also knows how time consuming the business of art can be. She practiced it along with her creative endeavors for many years. Now, she says, "I just want to paint."

In 2019 the Oregon Arts Commission's Committee for Public Art helped Prentice make more room in her studio by purchasing 10 of her paintings for Tykeson Hall at the UO.

And whatever happened to that large press that Prentice could no longer handle? It went to Heather and Paul Halpern, founders of Whiteaker Printmakers, a community nonprofit organization. Prentice says she is "thrilled knowing so many artists in Eugene are enjoying it." ■

A New Arts Haven

THE EUGENE BALLET'S NEW MIDTOWN ARTS CENTER PROVIDES A SPACE FOR DANCERS AND OTHER ARTS GROUPS

By Taylor Perse

In a final rehearsal, four Eugene Ballet dancers move across the floor in their new studio, polishing several spots in their routine. This room they are practicing in is built for dance — a tall ceiling, acoustic paneling and plenty of natural light coming through high windows.

For more than 10 years, the Eugene Ballet and its dance academy shared a small building, called the Midtown Arts Center, on Willamette Street. Now, despite the COVID-19 pandemic halting performances, the 40-year-old dance company will land on its feet, rehearsing upcoming virtual shows in its spacious studio at the new Midtown Arts Center.

"This is the biggest space we've ever had," says Eugene Ballet spokesperson Kylie Keppler. "We were in the last one for a little over 10 years, knowing it was temporary. We anticipated finding a permanent home."

The new Midtown Arts Center is located in a mixed development building on the corner of 16th Avenue and Pearl Street and was designed by Dustrud Architecture. Luxury condos take up the top half of the building, but nearly 30,000 square feet of space on the lower floors belongs to Eugene Ballet, which moved into the new facility in January.

The ballet's portion of the building cost \$6.8 million, with more than one-third of funds coming from the sale

of the ballet's old property, and the rest coming from government, individual and foundation support. The ballet is \$1.3 million short of its fundraising goal, \$800,000 of which can be attributed to the pandemic canceling in-person fundraising events, according to Executive Director Josh Neckles.

The big attraction of the building is the third floor, which contains two main rehearsal studios — one the size of the Hult Center's Soreng Theater stage, around 1,700 square feet, and a bigger one the size of the Silva Concert Hall stage at 3,100 square feet.

The studio ceiling is 20 feet high, providing dancers with plenty of space for lifts, and is covered with acoustic panels to help with sound when rehearsing with live musicians. The floors are vinyl and were designed for dance, not just to accommodate it, which was the case in the previous studio.

"The last building we outfitted for us. It technically had a dance floor, but this is better for dancers and better for us," Keppler says.

Behind the blue curtains along the new studio wall are mirrors and a digital screen, so that choreographers can Zoom with dancers. The Ballet Academy also has its own large screen on the wall. Keppler says these technological advances were added later.

"We implemented these things during COVID. The phase the building was in allowed us to make these pivots," Keppler says.

The dancers rehearsing in the larger studio are preparing for *A Dream Within Reach*, the ballet's upcoming performance, featuring a series of pieces that will be filmed and streamed digitally. This show marks the first time the company has choreographed dances that were created for film; it's the first project rehearsed in the new building.

"This is also our first series of pieces created in over a year," Keppler says, adding that the program was originally supposed to be performed in spring 2020.

Eugene Ballet Academy holds its classes on the second floor. Previously, the academy and the dance company shared studio space. Keppler says the ballet would rehearse until 4 pm, then transition into classes, which was always a little chaotic.

"Now we can always work simultaneously," she says. The space has a capacity of 500 students, compared with the previous 300.

The ground level serves as a local arts hub, where nine arts organizations such as the Eugene Opera and Orchestra Next are renting offices. Keppler says because the ballet owns its portion of the building, other arts groups renting space won't see rents go up.

Keppler says that as things return to normal they hope to have more classes to offer adults, which would give parents something to do while they wait for their child to finish class. Keppler says they are optimistic that the Eugene Ballet will have a full season starting in November. Regardless of the pandemic, the company now has a place to permanently call home. ■

The Eugene Ballet's A Dream Within Reach will stream for free at ExperienceBallet.org in May.

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LOST CAT "Nizmo". Nizmo is a micro-chipped, short haired tabby with extra toes on his front paws. He has bright green eyes. Last seen at the Bailey Apartments on W 13th Ave. IF FOUND PLEASE CALL: (541)972-6508

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"Never Say Never"

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Author Susan Sontag defined "mad people" as those who "stand alone and burn." She said she was drawn to them because they inspired her to do the same. What do you think she meant by the descriptor "stand alone and burn"? I suspect she was referring to strong-willed people devoted to cultivating the most passionate version of themselves, always in alignment with their deepest longings. She meant those who are willing to accept the consequences of such devotion, even if it means being misunderstood or alone. The coming weeks will be an interesting and educational time for you to experiment with being such a person.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): In the 1930s, Taurus-born Rita Levi-Montalcini was a promising researcher in neurobiology at the University of Turin in Italy. But when fascist dictator Benito Mussolini imposed new laws that forbade Jews from holding university jobs, she was fired. Undaunted, she created a laboratory in her bedroom and continued her work. There she laid the foundations for discoveries that ultimately led to her winning the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. I foresee you summoning comparable determination and resilience in the coming weeks, Taurus.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Religious scholar Karl Barth (1886-1968) wrote, "There will be no song on our lips if there be no anguish in our hearts." To that perverse oversimplification, I reply: "Rubbish. Twaddle. Bunk. Hooey." I'm appalled by his insinuation that pain is the driving force for all of our lyrical self-revelations. Case in point: you in the coming weeks. I trust there will be a steady flow of songs in your heart and on your lips because you will be in such intimate alignment with your life's master plan.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): "It is not easy to be crafty and winsome at the same time, and few accomplish it after the age of six," wrote Cancerian author John W. Gardner. But I would add that more adult Crabs accomplish this feat than any other sign of the zodiac. I'll furthermore suggest that during the next six weeks, many of you will do it quite well. My prediction: You will blend loveliness and strategic shrewdness to generate unprecedented effectiveness. (How could anyone resist you?)

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Staring at flames had benefits for our primitive ancestors. As they sat around campfires and focused on the steady burn, they were essentially practicing a kind of meditation. Doing so enhanced their ability to regulate their attention, thereby strengthening their working memory and developing a greater capacity to make long-range plans. What does this have to do with you? As a fire sign, you have a special talent for harnessing the power of fire to serve you. In the coming weeks, that will be even more profoundly true than usual. If you can do so safely, I encourage you to spend quality time gazing into flames. I also hope you will super-nurture the radiant fire that glows within you. (More info: tinyurl.com/GoodFlames)

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Physicist Victor Weisskopf told us, "What's beautiful in science is the same thing that's beautiful in Beethoven. There's a fog of events and suddenly you see a connection. It connects things that were always in you that were never put together before." I'm expecting there to be a wealth of these aha! moments for you in the coming weeks, Virgo. Hidden patterns will become visible. Missing links will appear. Secret agendas will emerge. The real stories beneath the superficial stories will materialize. Be receptive and alert!

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Jungian psychoanalyst and folklore expert Clarissa Pinkola Estés celebrates the power of inquiry. She says that "asking the proper question is the central action of transformation," both in fairy tales and in psychotherapy. To identify what changes will heal you, you must be curious to uncover truths that you don't know yet. "Questions are the keys that cause the secret doors of the psyche to swing open," says Estes. I bring this to your attention, Libra, because now is prime time for you to formulate the Fantastically Magically Catalytic Questions.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): In April 1933, Scorpio-born African American singer Ethel Waters was in a "private hell." Her career was at an impasse and her marriage was falling apart. In the depths of despondency, she was invited to sing a new song, "Stormy Weather," at New York City's famous Cotton Club. It was a turning point. She later wrote, "I was singing the story of my misery and confusion, of the misunderstandings in my life I couldn't straighten out, the story of the wrongs and outrages done to me by people I had loved and trusted." The audience was thrilled by her performance, and called her back for 12 encores. Soon thereafter, musical opportunities poured in and her career blossomed. I foresee a parallel event in your life, Scorpio. Maybe not quite so dramatic, but still, quite redemptive.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): I love to see you enjoy yourself. I get a vicarious thrill as I observe you pursuing pleasures that other people are too inhibited or timid to dare. It's healing for me to witness you unleash your unapologetic enthusiasm for being alive in an amazing body that's blessed with the miracle of consciousness. And now I'm going to be a cheerleader for your efforts to wander even further into the frontiers of bliss and joy and gratification. I will urge you to embark on a quest of novel forms of rapture and exultation. I'll prod you to at least temporarily set aside habitual sources of excitement so you'll have room to welcome as-yet unfamiliar sources.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Capricorn poet John O'Donohue suggested that a river's behavior is worthy of our emulation. He said the river's life is "surrendered to the pilgrimage." It's "seldom pushing or straining, keeping itself to itself everywhere all along its flow." Can you imagine yourself doing that, Capricorn? Now is an excellent time to do so. O'Donohue rhapsodized that the river is "at one with its sinuous mind, an utter rhythm, never awkward," and that "it continues to swirl through all unlikeness with elegance: a ceaseless traverse of presence soothing on each side, sounding out its journey, raising up a buried music." Be like that river, dear Capricorn!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): "Is life not a thousand times too short for us to bore ourselves?" wrote philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. In response to that sentiment, I say, "Amen!" and "Hallelujah!" Even if you will live till age 99, that's still too brief a time to indulge in an excess of dull activities that activate just a small part of your intelligence. To be clear, I don't think it's possible to be perfect in avoiding boredom. But for most of us, there's a lot we can do to minimize numbing tedium and energy-draining apathy. I mention this, Aquarius, because the coming weeks will be a time when you will have extra power to make your life as interesting as possible for the long run.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): I know of four different governmental organizations that have estimated the dollar value of a single human life. The average of their figures is \$7.75 million. So let's say, for argument's sake, that you are personally worth that much. Does it change the way you think about your destiny? Are you inspired to upgrade your sense of yourself as a precious treasure? Or is the idea of putting a price on your merit uninteresting, even unappealing? Whatever your reaction is, I hope it prods you to take a revised inventory of your worth, however you measure it. It's a good time to get a clear and precise evaluation of the gift that is your life. (Quote from Julia Cameron: "Treating yourself like a precious object makes you strong.")

Homework: Send brief descriptions of your top three vices and top three virtues. FreeWillAstrology.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Case No. 21PB01366 **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** in the matter of the Estate of Judy Marie Mathews, Deceased. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Lindsay Munch has qualified and been appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present them, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative's Attorney, Jeffrey D. Krebs, DC Law, McKinney & Sperry PC, P.O. Box 1265, Roseburg, OR 97470, or the claims may be barred. Dated and first published this 1st day of April, 2021. Attorney for Personal Representative: Jeffrey D. Krebs, OSB #094110, DC Law - McKinney & Sperry PC, P.O. Box 1265, Roseburg, OR 97470, Telephone: 541-673-4451 Fax: 541-673-1202

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY, OSCAR COX; Plaintiff, v. JAMES GIBSON, JR.; HELEN MASON; AND DOES 1-10, BEING THE HEIRS AT LAW AND/OR DEVISEES OF S.A. GIBSON ALSO KNOWN AS SILAS A. GIBSON; Defendants. Case No. 21CV09112 SUMMONS. TO: Defendants James Gibson, Jr. and Does 1-10, being the heirs at law and/or devisees of S.A. Gibson also known as Silas A. Gibson. IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear and defend the Complaint filed against you in the above case within thirty days after the first date of publication of this summons, and if you fail to appear and defend, the Plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The object of the Complaint and the demand for relief are: The Plaintiff seeks to quiet title in the real property described below which Plaintiff acquired through adverse possession. The real property is described as follows: Beginning at a point in the West line of the Northeast One Quarter of the Southeast One Quarter of Section 10, Township 18

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY, Probate Department. In the Matter of the Estate of: CARLTON ANDREW STOLZ, Deceased. Case No. 21PB02133 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS GIVEN that Jackie Fosback has been appointed personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative c/o Robert Cole Tozer, Attorney at Law, 975 Oak St., Suite 615, Eugene, OR 97401, (541)345-0795, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, John C. Fisher. Dated and first published on April 1, 2021. /s/ Suzanne Prim, Personal Representative

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE, In the Matter of the Estate of DALE L. JOHNSON, Deceased, Case No. 21 PB 02339. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned personal representative at Lisa Murdock, c/o Adam R. Schulz, Attorney & Counselor at Law, LLC, 142 West 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon, 97401, within four months after the date of first publication, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the lawyers for the personal representative, Adam R. Schulz, Attorney & Counselor at Law, LLC, 142 West 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon, 97401. Dated and first published on April 1, 2021. /s/ Lisa Murdock, Personal Representative

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE, In the Matter of the Estate of JOSEPH ROBERT MAY, Deceased, Case No. 21 PB 02492. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the

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undersigned personal representative at Robert May, c/o Adam R. Schulz, Attorney & Counselor at Law, LLC, 142 West 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon, 97401, within four months after the date of first publication, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the lawyers for the personal representative, Adam R. Schulz, Attorney & Counselor at Law, LLC, 142 West 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon, 97401. Dated and first published on April 1, 2021. /s/ Robert May, Personal Representative

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kathy A. Bradford has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the Estate of Dorothy J. Wehmeyer, deceased, in Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 21PBO1774. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below to the personal representative c/o Tami S.P. Beach, 1184 Olive Street, Eugene, OR 97401, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative. Date of first publication: 03/25/21. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Kathy A. Bradford, 1346 Elkay Dr., Eugene, OR 97404. ATTORNEY FOR PERS. REP.: Tami S.P. Beach, 1184 Olive Street, Eugene, OR 97401

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS ESTATE OF STEVENS VAN STRUM LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 21PBO2476 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the Personal Representative Janice L. Mackey, Hutchinson Cox, PO Box 10886, Eugene, Oregon 97440. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 04/08/2021.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS, ESTATE OF GILBERT MARION DOWELL, LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 21PBO2222. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the undersigned personal representative at Linda Dowell c/o Mark M. Williams, Attorney at Law, 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, OR 97401. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the Attorney for the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published April 1,

2021. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Linda Gayle Dowell, 397 S. 32nd Street, Springfield, Oregon 97478, 541-543-4697. ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER/PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Mark M. Williams, OSB#821404, 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, OR 97401-2459, 541-393-6720/ 541-344-7487 FAX, mark@williams-law.com

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: Probate administration proceedings in the Estate of Patricia J. Burroughs, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 21PBO2815, and Steven Leroy Hollis has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleaves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above-entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 8th day of April, 2021.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: Probate proceedings in the Estate of Carol Joy Kennedy, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 21PBO2122, and Howard Kallinen has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleaves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above-entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published: 03/25/21. /s/ Elaine Foster, Personal Representative. Kay Hyde-Patton, Attorney for the Personal Representative, Leahy Cox, LLP, 188 W. B Street, Bldg. N, Springfield, Oregon 97477, (541)746-9621.

tional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 25th day of March, 2021.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS: Probate proceedings in the Estate of Leslie Eugene Spence, Deceased, are now pending in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Case No. 21PBO2815, and Steven Leroy Hollis has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, c/o Gleaves Swearingen LLP, Attorneys at Law, 975 Oak Street, Suite 800, Eugene, OR 97401, within 4 months from the date of the first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN to all persons whose rights may be affected by the above-entitled proceedings that additional information may be obtained from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published this 8th day of April, 2021.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed and has qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of George Hurrey III, deceased, Lane County Probate No. 21PBO1852. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this Estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published: 03/25/21. /s/ Elaine Foster, Personal Representative. Kay Hyde-Patton, Attorney for the Personal Representative, Leahy Cox, LLP, 188 W. B Street, Bldg. N, Springfield, Oregon 97477, (541)746-9621.

SAVAGE LOVE

Concessions
BY DAN SAVAGE



I'm a 29-year-old straight male. I've been with my 25-year-old partner for six years. I love her and think that we are perfect for each other. We have all the things that make existing with someone wonderful. But about two years into our relationship I had a two-week-long affair while I was out of the country. I fucked up. I came clean to my partner and we've done our best to work through this over the last four years, but it has obviously caused some trust issues between us. I've never cheated again and I try every day to work through these issues I caused in our relationship.

There's also been two recent instances of me breaking her trust. On a particularly stressful day I was caught sneaking a cigarette — the sneaking part is the issue — and on another occasion I did drugs in our communal back garden with a friend after she had gone to bed. I owned up to both straight away. I view both of these as being a symptom of the lockdown/pandemic prompting me to break with my "normal" behavior. But my partner is no longer comfortable allowing me to have the freedom to go out with my friends and partake in drugs without her express permission, which she already said she's unlikely to grant me. The other element to this is, we want kids in three years. We've agreed that I will fully abstain from all drugs after we become parents. My problem is that I am trapped between a desire to meet the wants of my partner while also maintaining a degree of autonomy. When we discuss these matters — which we've been doing frequently lately — her argument boils down to this: "You did a bad thing, you need to make concessions so that I feel safe, you having to seek my permission makes me feel safe." It's coming to loggerheads and I don't know if I'm the unreasonable one here, especially since I'm arguing for the freedom to do an illegal drug. I would appreciate your external, outside, drug-positive perspective in this.

— *Don't Really Understand Girlfriends Sentiment*

I had some emergency dental work done this morning and I'm a little strung out on... what are those things called again? Oh, right: drugs. Last night I selected the letters I wanted to respond to in this week's column and I really didn't expect to be on powerful painkillers when I sat down to write my responses today. In all honesty, I probably shouldn't be operating advice machinery at the moment but deadlines are deadlines. You should take my advice with a grain silo or two of salt, DRUGS, and everyone else should just skip this week's column entirely.

Okay! DRUGS! Here we go! My outside, external, drug-positive-but-with-caveats (see below) perspective on your dilemma boils down to this: *Do not make babies with this woman.* Don't scramble your DNA together with hers — not unless it makes your dick hard to think about begging this woman for permission every time you wanna smoke a little pot with a friend or take a fucking shit for the next forty years. (And, trust me, you're still going to want to smoke pot after the babies come.) If that kind of begging excites you, great. Have all the fucking babies. But if that doesn't excite you... dude... *run the fuck away.*

Yeah, yeah: you did a bad thing. You had an affair four years ago and you made the mistake of telling your girlfriend about it even though 1. she most likely was never going to find out about it and 2. you quickly came to regret it. Your regret wasn't *instantaneous* — like you, DRUGS, your regret took a couple of weeks to come — but the fact that you haven't cheated on her since is a pretty good indication that your regret was sincere. And now here you are four years later, DRUGS, waking up every day and getting back to work on those trust issues. Because you're still in trouble. Because you made the mistake of telling your girlfriend about an affair she would never have found known about if you had kept your mouth shut.

But you know... come to think of it... maybe it was a good thing that you told your girlfriend about the affair, DRUGS. Not because honesty is always the best policy. The famed couples counselor and author and podcaster and Ted Talker Esther Perel urges people who've had affairs to consider the "burden of knowing" before they disclose. If you sincerely regret the affair and it's not going to happen again and your partner is not in any physical risk and is unlikely to hear about the affair from a third party, sparing them the burden of knowing is the second-most loving thing a person can do. (Not cheating at all would, of course, be the most loving thing a person can do.)

So to be clear, DRUGS, I don't think telling your girlfriend was the right thing to do because all affairs must be disclosed. I think telling your particular girlfriend was the right thing to do because she's telling on herself now. If she doesn't feel like she can trust you ever again — and if she's constantly on the lookout for new reasons why she can't trust you — then she needs to end this relationship. But she hasn't ended the relationship, DRUGS, and you need to ask yourself why she hasn't. I have a hunch: She hasn't ended it *because she likes it this way.*

Someone who cheats and gets caught and discloses and wants to make it right can expect to spend some time, well, making it right. They should expect to spend some time in the doghouse and, to extend the metaphor, they should expect to spend some time on a short leash. But a person can't spend the rest of their life in the doghouse. A cheater has to take responsibility and be considerate about insecurities the affair may have created or worsened. But if a cheater has done all that and years later the person the cheated won't let them out of the doghouse — or is constantly finding new reasons to keep the cheater in the doghouse — then the doghouse is where the cheated wants the cheater. Forever. Which means instead of being angry you cheated on her, DRUGS, on some level your girlfriend is delighted you cheated on her. Because the wrong thing you did allows her to control you for the rest of your life.

But it shouldn't. And if she insists it does or that it should, DRUGS, you should leave her.

About those caveats: You don't specify the drug you used in the backyard with your friend but I'm gonna assume it was weed — which is legal where I live but not where you live. There is, of course, a big difference between stepping out to smoke a little pot after the girlfriend has gone to bed and sneaking out to smoke a lotta meth. And if you're an addict and a little pot has led to a lot of harder drugs in the past, your girlfriend's zero tolerance policy might be justified. But if we're not talking about hard drugs and you don't have addiction issues, DRUGS, you shouldn't have to beg your girlfriend's permission in advance — which she's denied in advance — to smoke a little pot with a buddy.

I've been listening to old episodes of the Savage Lovecast while working from home. Yesterday I heard you explain to straight male listeners that their straight female partners would say "yes" to sex more often if "sex" didn't always mean the woman getting fucked. That really resonated with me, a straight woman with a male partner. When my husband came onto me the next night and I didn't feel like opening up to get basted, instead of saying "no" I offered to jerk him off while he sucked my tits. It was great — for both of us! Total win! Thank you, Dan Savage!

— *Joyfully Enjoying Relevant Knowledge*

You're welcome, JERK! It's always nice to hear from folks who've taken my advice and didn't regret it!

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